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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-third session
Agenda item 10

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES

Draft resolution submitted by the Chairman

1997/... Situation of human rights in Afghanistan

The Commission on Human Rights,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights and accepted humanitarian rules, as set out in the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and to fulfill the obligations they have freely undertaken under the various international instruments,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1984/37 of 24 May 1984, in which the Council requested the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights to appoint a special rapporteur to examine the situation of human rights in Afghanistan,

Recalling that Afghanistan is a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman

or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and that it has signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Recalling in particular its resolution 1996/75 of 23 April 1996, in which the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan for one year and requested him to consider submitting a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session, and Economic and Social Council decision 1996/280 of 24 July 1996, in which the Council approved the Commission's decision,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 51/195 of 17 December 1996 and Security Council resolution 1076 (1996) of 22 October 1996,

Deeply concerned at reports of violations and abuses of human rights and humanitarian law, including the right to life, to liberty and security of person and to freedom of opinion, expression, religion and association,

Concerned in particular at reports of violations and abuses against women and children, especially regarding access to basic education for girl children, and access by women to employment and training and their effective participation in political, economic, social and cultural life throughout the country,

Concerned also that a unified judicial system cannot be established throughout the country under the prevailing circumstances, and stressing the necessity, until one is created, for regional administrations to assume responsibility for the protection of the human rights of those people under their control, in accordance with internationally accepted standards of human rights,

Commending the activities carried out for the welfare of the Afghan people by various agencies and programmes of the United Nations, as well as by the International Committee of the Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations, including non-governmental organizations,

Welcoming the special emphasis that the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan has placed on human rights issues in its discussions with the Afghan parties,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the final report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (E/CN.4/1997/59) and of the conclusions and recommendations contained therein;

2. Notes with deep concern the intensification of armed hostilities in Afghanistan, which in some cases have resulted in the destruction of houses and in forced evictions, including on the ground of ethnicity, and calls on all parties involved immediately to cease such hostilities, to engage in a political dialogue aimed at achieving national reconciliation, and to permit the return of displaced persons to their homes;

3. Notes with concern the ongoing deterioration of the situation of human rights in Afghanistan as reported by the Special Rapporteur and deplores the violations and abuses of human rights and humanitarian law, including the rights to life, liberty and security of person, freedom from torture and from other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, freedom of opinion, expression, religion and association, and freedom from discrimination on the basis of gender;

4. Expresses its deep concern at the frequent practice of arbitrary arrest and detention and of summary trials, which have resulted in summary executions, throughout the country, as well as the application of forms of punishment that do not conform to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

5. Calls on all the Afghan parties, in accordance with international human rights instruments, fully to respect and act in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion;

6. Urges all the Afghan parties to restore respect for all the human rights of women, without delay, and in particular to take measures to ensure:

(a) The effective participation of women in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life throughout the country;

(b) Respect for the right of women to work, and reintegration in their employment;

(c) The right of women and of girls to education without discrimination, the reopening of schools and the admission of women and of girls to higher levels of education;

(d) Respect for women's right to security of person, and that those responsible for physical attacks on women are brought to justice;

(e) Respect for women's freedom of movement and effective access to facilities necessary to protect their right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

7. Encourages the Special Rapporteur to continue to pay attention to the human rights of women and of children and to apply a gender perspective in a similar manner as in his report to the Commission at its fifty-third session;

8. Demands that all the Afghan parties fulfill their obligations and commitments regarding the safety of all diplomatic missions and of United Nations personnel and other international personnel as well as their premises in Afghanistan, and cooperate fully with the United Nations and associated bodies as well as with non-governmental organizations, including humanitarian organizations, national and international, and other agencies;

9. Endorses the Special Rapporteur's condemnation of the abduction from United Nations premises of the former President of Afghanistan, Mr. Najibullah, and of his brother, and their subsequent summary execution;

10. Urges the Afghan authorities to provide sufficient and effective remedies to the victims of grave violations and abuses of human rights and of accepted humanitarian rules and to bring the perpetrators to trial in accordance with internationally accepted standards;

11. Strongly urges all the Afghan parties to work and cooperate fully with the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan with a view to achieving a comprehensive political solution leading to the cessation of armed confrontation and the establishment of a democratic government elected through free and fair elections, to be held throughout the country and based on the right to self-determination of the people of Afghanistan;

12. Recognizes that the promotion and protection of human rights should be an essential element in the achievement of a comprehensive solution to the crisis in Afghanistan, and therefore invites the Special Mission and the Special Rapporteur to exchange relevant information and to strengthen mutual consultation and cooperation;

13. Urges all the Afghan parties to respect fully international humanitarian law, to protect civilians, to halt the use of weapons against the civilian population, to stop the laying of landmines, especially anti-personnel mines, and urges all the Afghan parties to prohibit the drafting and the recruitment of children as para-combatants and to ensure their reintegration into society;

14. Invites the United Nations to offer, once national reconciliation is achieved and upon request of the governmental authorities, advisory

services and technical assistance concerning the drafting of a constitution, which should embody internationally accepted human rights principles and the holding of direct elections;

15. Stresses the importance of human rights education and awareness-building in both urban and rural areas, and encourages the international community to assist in this regard;

16. Encourages the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to study, with the contribution of its competent committees, appropriate ways and means to restore the Afghan system of education and cultural heritage, in particular the restoration of the Kabul museum and other historical sites;

17. Urges all States to respect the full national independence and territorial integrity of Afghanistan and non-interference in its internal affairs, and takes note with concern of the report of the Special Rapporteur wherein he is informed of the presence of foreigners among prisoners of war;

18. Calls for the unconditional and simultaneous release of all prisoners of war, wherever they are held, including former Soviet prisoners of war, and for the tracing of the many Afghans still missing as the result of the war;

19. Calls upon all warring parties in Afghanistan to refrain from arbitrarily detaining civilian foreign nationals, and urges their captors to release them immediately;

20. Calls upon the Afghan parties to treat all suspects and convicted or detained persons in accordance with relevant international instruments;

21. Appeals to Member States and to the international community to provide on a non-discriminatory basis adequate humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan and to the Afghan refugees in the neighbouring countries;

22. Encourages the United Nations Special Envoy to Afghanistan to exert efforts to ensure a gender perspective in the selection of his staff, in order to enhance the role of women in preventive diplomacy, peace-making and peace-keeping;

23. Urges the Afghan parties to continue to extend their full cooperation to the Commission on Human Rights and its Special Rapporteur, and to facilitate access to all sectors of society;

24. Decides to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for one year, and requests the Special Rapporteur to report on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session and to consider submitting a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session;

25. Requests the Secretary-General to give all necessary assistance to the Special Rapporteur;

26. Requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights to ensure a human rights presence in the context of the United Nations activities in Afghanistan in order to provide professional advice to all the Afghan parties, as well as to the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field;

27. Decides to continue its consideration of the human rights situation in Afghanistan, as a matter of high priority, under the agenda item entitled "Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories".

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RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

Philippines: amendment to draft resolution E/CN.4/1997/L.102 entitled "Rights of the child"

Insert the following new section after section VII.

Children with disabilities

1. Notes, with concern, the large numbers of children who have become disabled physically or mentally, or both, as a consequence, inter alia, of poverty, disease, disasters, armed conflict and all forms of violence;

2. Recognizes the need for special attention to be directed towards children with disabilities and their families or other caretakers;

3. Invites Governments, concerned United Nations specialized bodies and agencies including the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and non-governmental organizations, especially of persons with disabilities, to conduct awareness-raising activities with a view to combating and overcoming discrimination directed against children with disabilities, and to continue to mainstream children with disabilities in their respective programme activities;

4. Emphasizes the right of children with disabilities to education and to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and urges Governments to ensure provision of equal access to schools

and to comprehensive health services and the adoption of holistic approaches towards the total well-being of all children with disabilities, particularly children at highest risk, including refugees, displaced children, migrant children, children living in settings of violence and its immediate aftermath, those living in disaster areas, street children and children in squatter colonies;

5. Requests the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to pay attention to the special needs of children with disabilities, and requests the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, within the framework of her mandate, to include information on children with disabilities in her report to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session.

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FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

India: proposed amendments to E/CN.4/1997/L.69

I. AMENDMENTS

1. First preambular paragraph: delete "the extensive human suffering of refugees and displaced persons" in line 3 and replace with "violations of human rights which often result in such exoduses".

2. Second preambular paragraph: delete the text after "displacement of people" in line 5.

3. Third preambular paragraph: delete the entire paragraph.

4. Fourth preambular paragraph: delete the entire paragraph.

5. Fifth preambular paragraph: delete the text after "... humanitarian action" in line 2.

6. Sixth preambular paragraph: delete from " Welcoming " in line 1 to "and" in line 4; "also" and from "and the representative of the Secretary-General" in line 6 to "internally displaced persons" in line 7.

7. Seventh preambular paragraph: move "United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights" from lines 3/4 to before "United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" in line 1, insert "and" after "United Nations Development Programme", and delete from "with a view to" to "activities" in the last line.

8. Eighth preambular paragraph: delete the entire paragraph.

9. Ninth preambular paragraph: change "has important capabilities" in line 3 to "may have capabilities".

10. Tenth preambular paragraph: delete entire paragraph.

11. Eleventh preambular paragraph: replace "violence and exploitation" at the end of the paragraph with "violations of human rights".

12. Twelfth preambular paragraph: delete entire paragraph.

13. Thirteenth preambular paragraph: add "the Universal Declaration of Human Rights", after "principles of" in line 1, and "and that their basic human rights, including access to judicial remedies, should be ensured" at the end of the paragraph.

14. Fourteenth preambular paragraph: delete entire paragraph.

15. Insert before operative paragraph 1 the following heading:
"I. General".

16. Operative paragraph 1: replace "to develop a comprehensive approach to" in line 4 with "towards compiling information on".

17. Operative paragraph 5: delete entire paragraph.

18. Operative paragraph 6: delete entire paragraph.

19. Operative paragraph 7: delete the text after "... in their reports" in line 6.

20. Operative paragraph 9: delete the text after "... mass exoduses" in line 7.

21. Operative paragraph 10: delete the text after "Early Warning System" and replace it with "calls upon the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue his cooperation with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs in this regard, ensuring that there is no duplication of such efforts on the part of the Centre for Human Rights".

22. Operative paragraph 11: delete the text after "... Humanitarian Affairs" in line 3.

23. Operative paragarph 12: delete from "give high priority" in line 1, to "... inter alia" in line 4 and replace it with "ensure".

24. Operative paragraph 13: delete entire paragraph.

25. Operative paragraph 14: delete entire paragraph.

26. Operative paragraph 15: delete entire paragraph.

27. Operative paragraph 16: delete entire paragraph and replace it with "Disturbed at the widespread violation of the principle of non-refoulement and of the rights of refugees, in some cases resulting in loss of refugee lives, and seriously disturbed at reports indicating that large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers have been refouled and expelled in highly dangerous situations, and recalls that the principle of non-refoulement is not subject to derogation,".

28. Operative paragraph 17: delete last three lines starting with "with particular" and ending with "effectively".

II. NEW PARAGRAPHS FOR INCLUSION

II

Protection and human rights issues

19. Notes that durable solutions to situations of mass exodus must be designed in such a way as to reinforce protection;

20. Recalls that protection considerations should govern the entire process towards solutions and that standards should be applied consistently across the world;

21. Calls upon States to introduce legislation for the protection of the rights of refugees in line with relevant international standards; review existing legislation and deportation procedures with regard to their compatibility with basic human rights standards and refugee law; ensure that expulsions do not involve the separation of families and that deprivation of liberty is used only as a measure of last resort;

22. Notes with concern that attitudes to refugee protection and refugees in many countries range from indifference to active hostility, and condemns in this regard prolonged and arbitrary detention of asylum seekers in refugee centres as well as decisions to repatriate asylum seekers without proper respect for international human rights standards and norms of refugee law;

23. Notes also with concern the inadequate application of law and policy to asylum seekers, in particular women and children, and the insufficient attention paid to the general principles of non-discrimination;

24. Notes with concern that policies of "temporary protection", "orderly repatriation", "mandatory repatriation" and "passively accepted repatriation" may lead to violations of the human rights of asylum seekers and refugees and may also result in a conflict with the basic protection role of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

25. Views with concern the growth of racism and intolerance against refugees, migrants and other categories of persons who form part of the phenomenon of mass exodus;

26. Deplores the tardiness of the international community in responding to humanitarian crises through timely, coordinated and decisive action;

III

United Nations High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights

27. Notes that the prevention of and response to situations of mass exodus may be beyond the capacity of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and may go beyond his mandate;

28. Recognizes that institutions responsible for sustaining the rule of law play an important role in removing the causes of mass exoduses and, in this context, calls on the High Commissioner to continue his efforts, at the request of the Governments concerned, to reinforce national legal, judicial and administrative capacity, including training opportunities through technical cooperation programmes in countries of origin as well as host countries, particularly developing countries;

29. Welcomes the efforts of the High Commissioner to create an environment viable for return in post-conflict societies through initiatives such as the rehabilitation of the justice system, creation of national institutions capable of defending human rights, broad-based programmes of human rights education as well as the strengthening of local non-governmental organizations through programmes of advisory services and technical cooperation;

30. Calls upon Governments to contribute generously to the efforts of the High Commissioner to expand his technical cooperation activities and requests the High Commissioner to focus in particular on countries that receive as well as contribute to mass exoduses;

IV

Causes

31. Reaffirming that the aspect of causes is critical to the issue of solutions and that international efforts should be directed to the removal of the causes of mass exoduses;

32. Recognizes that the causes of mass exoduses are often of a structural nature and are directly linked to the prevailing unjust and inequitable international political and economic order, and notes in this regard that the study of purely national aspects alone will not reveal the real roots of the problem;

33. Notes that the use of force, foreign occupation or domination, unilateral economic coercion and international sanctions, particularly when foodstuffs and medical requisites are denied to populations, are factors in creating refugees and mass exoduses;

34. Affirms that chronic underdevelopment is one of the root causes of the phenomenon of mass exodus and that the linkage between the two establishes the close and vital relationship between violations of the right to development and violations of civil and political rights;

35. Notes that mass exodus and the failure to develop durable solutions, including through the fulfilment of the right to development, can exacerbate existing tensions and lead to renewed conflict and violations of civil and political rights resulting in recurring mass population movements;

V

Solutions and burden-sharing

36. Noting that while displaced persons remain within the territorial jurisdiction of their own countries, the primary responsibility for their welfare and protection lies with the State concerned;

37. Recognizes that countries of asylum carry a heavy burden, including in particular developing countries with limited resources and those which, owing to their location, host large numbers of refugees and asylum seekers, and reiterates in this regard its commitment to uphold the principles of international solidarity and burden-sharing, and calls on Governments and the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to respond to the needs of countries hosting large numbers of refugees until durable solutions are found;

38. Reaffirms that while the primary responsibility for tackling population displacement problems lies with the affected countries themselves, these serious challenges cannot be met by the limited resources and experience of the countries facing these problems alone, particularly developing countries;

39. Emphasizes the responsibility of all States and international organizations to cooperate with countries on whom the large-scale presence of refugees weighs most heavily;

40. Notes that respect and protection of all human rights, including the right to development, are essential in avoiding mass exoduses and in achieving long-term solutions to displacement;

41. Reaffirms that resettlement is an instrument of protection and a durable solution and in this connection urges Governments to respond actively to the resettlement needs of refugees in a spirit of burden-sharing;

42. Notes with concern the gap between development planning mechanisms and humanitarian resource mobilization which could result in gaps in assistance to populations that have recently returned or resettled, and affirms that unsustainable economic conditions in the area of return and insufficient financial support to returnees could be a factor slowing down the process of return, reintegration and reconciliation;

43. Notes that the prevention of mass exoduses requires lasting and effective solutions and requires bilateral and multilateral efforts with specific commitments and effective contributions to developing countries in order to promote the realization of all human rights, in particular the right to development, and welcomes in this regard the holistic approach to promotion and protection of human rights adopted by the High Commissioner.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE THIRD DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Cuba: amendment to draft resolution L.9/Rev.1, entitled "Measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance"

1. After operative paragraph 4, insert the following new operative paragraph:

Also expresses its profound concern at and unequivocal condemnation of propaganda, activities and organizations based on doctrines of superiority of one race or group of persons, of one colour or belief-system which attempt to justify or promote racism and racial discrimination in any form;

2. After operative paragraph 18, insert the following new operative paragraph:

Recommends to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, that the World Conference on Racism and Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to be convened not later than the year 2001;

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FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Australia*, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium*, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Cyprus*, Czech Republic, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia*, Finland*, France, Germany, Greece*, Iceland*, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein*, Luxembourg*, Netherlands, New Zealand*, Norway*, Poland*, Portugal*, San Marino*, Slovakia*, Slovenia*, Spain*, Sweden*, Switzerland* and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: draft resolution

1997... Strengthening of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights

The Commission on Human Rights,

Recalling all relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, in particular Commission resolution 1996/82 and Assembly resolution 51/90, as well as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action,

Reaffirming that the promotion and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms is a priority objective of the United Nations and the importance that the international community attaches to the activities and programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights,

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* In accordance with rule 69, paragraph 3, of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

Bearing in mind that Article 100 of the Charter of the United Nations states:

"1. In the performance of their duties the Secretary-General and the staff shall not seek or receive instructions from any government or from any other authority external to the Organization. They shall refrain from any action which might reflect on their position as international officials responsible only to the Organization.

"2. Each Member of the United Nations undertakes to respect the exclusively international character of the responsibilities of the Secretary-General and the staff and not to seek to influence them in the discharge of their responsibilities.",

Bearing also in mind that paragraph 3 of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations states: "The paramount consideration in the employment of the staff and in the determination of the conditions of service shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity. Due regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible.",

1. Welcomes:

(a) And encourages the efforts of the Secretary-General to enhance the role and improve further the functioning of the Centre for Human Rights, as an integral part of the Secretariat of the United Nations, under the overall supervision of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(b) The efforts by the Secretary-General and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen human rights activities as well as the information provided by the High Commissioner with regard to the restructuring of the Centre for Human Rights with the aim of increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the Centre and ensuring that all its mandates can be implemented;

(c) The decision of the Secretary-General to extend a standing invitation to the High Commissioner for Human Rights to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

2. Reaffirms the importance of ensuring universality, objectivity and non-selectivity of the consideration of human rights issues, and requests the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to ensure that the fulfilment of his mandate and that of the Centre for Human Rights is guided by these principles;

3. Emphasizes:

(a) That the High Commissioner - in pursuance of the task of strengthening, rationalizing and streamlining his Office and the Centre for Human Rights - continue to align the procedures within the Office/Centre for Human Rights with the applicable overall United Nations rules;

(b) That all appointments and recruitments to the Office of the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights, including regularization of short-term staff and also including any recruitment made possible by voluntary contributions, should be in accordance with established procedures, inter alia through early dissemination of information on vacancies, on the basis of the principles contained in paragraph 3 of Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, and in this regard calls upon the Secretary-General to continue to ensure the application of these principles in the recruitment of personnel in the Office/Centre for Human Rights at all levels;

(c) The importance of providing qualified regular staff to the Office/Centre for Human Rights, adequate to its needs and effective functioning, as well as the need for appropriate utilization of Junior Professional Officers, in a manner consistent with the division of responsibilities within the Office/Centre for Human Rights, and of assigning tasks to Junior Professional Officers that are in line with their status and with Article 100 of the Charter of the United Nations;

4. Notes with concern that earlier requests to increase substantially the resources for the human rights programme have not led to an increase commensurate with the needs of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights and therefore reiterates these requests for an increase of resources from within the existing regular budget of the United Nations;

5. Decides:

(a) To encourage the High Commissioner, within the mandate as set out in General Assembly resolution 48/141, to continue to play an active role in promoting and protecting all human rights, including in the prevention of human rights violations throughout the world, and, in this context, reiterates the need to provide all necessary financial, material and personnel resources to the Office/Centre for Human Rights to enable it to carry out all mandates efficiently, effectively and expeditiously in line with the human rights programme as adopted by the General Assembly;

(b) To reiterate its request to the Secretary-General to provide the human rights programme with all the necessary human, financial and material resources from future regular budgets of the United Nations, and in particular that this be taken into account in the budget for the 1998-1999 biennium;

(c) To request the Secretary-General to continue to do his utmost to increase cooperation and coordination on human rights issues among the various other departments, offices and agencies of the United Nations as well as to ensure the participation of the Office of the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights in all mechanisms related to the follow-up to major United Nations conferences;

(d) To invite the High Commissioner for Human Rights to make available to all States, on a regular basis, information on voluntary contributions and their allocation, and to invite all States to all briefing meetings and appeals, including those with States contributing extrabudgetary funds;

(e) To request the High Commissioner to make available on an annual basis a report on the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights reflecting, inter alia, grade, nationality and gender, including with regard to non-regular staff;

(f) To request the High Commissioner to submit to the Commission at its fifty-fourth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to include in this report, inter alia, information on

(i) Voluntary contributions, including their share in the overall budget of the human rights programme and their allocation;

(ii) An assessment of the effectiveness of ongoing field operations;

(g) To consider the question of strengthening the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Centre for Human Rights at its fifty-fourth session, including measures taken in furtherance of the present resolution.

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE THIRD DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

Administrative and programme budget implications of the draft resolution contained in document E/CN.4/1997/L.12/Rev.1 entitled "Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance"

A. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. By paragraph 18 of the draft resolution, the Commission on Human Rights would reaffirm the General Assembly's recommendation by which it requested the Centre for Human Rights, in cooperation with the Committee against Racial Discrimination (CERD), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and other relevant United Nations bodies, non-governmental organizations and Internet service providers, to organize a seminar with a view to assessing the role of the Internet in the light of the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

2. By paragraph 45, the Commission on Human Rights would recommend to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, the convening of a world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance not later than the year 2001.

3. By paragraph 48 (a), the Commission on Human Rights would recommend to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, that the Commission on Human Rights should act as the preparatory committee for the world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that its deliberations should be open-ended, allowing for the full participation of all States Members of the United Nations and members of specialized agencies and observers, in accordance with established practice.

B. Relationship of requests to the programme of work

4. The activities referred to above would take place during the period covered by two medium-term plans (1992-1997 and 1998-2001) and fall respectively under (a) Programme 35: Promotion and protection of human rights, subprogramme 2: Elimination and prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities, as contained in document A/47/6/Rev.1, and (b) Programme 19: Human rights, subprogramme 1: Right to development, research and analysis (A/51/6 (Prog. 19)). At the same time, the activities would be carried out under budget section 21 in 1996-1997 and under the budget section to be established for the human rights programme in the biennium 2000-2001.

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

Expert seminar on the role of the Internet

5. An expert seminar on the role of the Internet with regard to the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination would be convened by the Office of the High Commissioner/Centre for Human Rights, in cooperation and with the participation of CERD, UNESCO, ITU and other relevant United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations and Internet service providers.

6. The expert seminar would meet in Geneva for five working days during 1997. Provisions would be required for travel and per diem of five experts (including the Special Rapporteur on racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and one member of CERD). Conference services with interpretation in the six official languages would be provided within existing resources. However, the number of languages and the actual cost would be determined on the basis of the composition of the experts.

World conference

7. In accordance with paragraph 45 of the draft resolution, a world conference on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related

intolerance would be convened not later than the year 2001. The world conference is envisaged to meet for five working days. For the purposes of costing, it is presumed that the conference would be convened in Geneva.

8. The substantive servicing of the world conference and its preparatory meetings would require additional provisions for general temporary assistance as follows: 18 work months at the P-4 level, 12 work months at the P-3 level and 30 work months at the General Service level.

9. Full conference services in all six languages would be required for three simultaneous meetings in the morning and afternoon for a total of six meetings per day in respect of a plenary (which would meet for five working days) and a main and drafting committees (which are expected to meet for four working days each).

10. The preparatory process for the world conference would consist of: (i) a preparatory committee which is envisaged to meet in Geneva on two occasions for a period of five working days each immediately after the conclusion of the regular annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights; and (ii) a three-day pre-conference high-level consultation meeting to be convened in Geneva immediately before the opening of the world conference.

11. The preparatory committee would consist of a plenary scheduled to meet for five working days with full conference services in six languages. Full conference services with interpretation in six languages would also be required for the high-level consultation meeting which would take place in Geneva immediately before the opening of the world conference.

D. Modification to the approved programme of work

12. The programme of work included under section 21 (Human rights) of the programme budget for the 1996-1997 biennium would have to be modified as follows:

Subprogramme 2. Elimination and prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities and vulnerable groups

Activities 1. Parliamentary services

(b) Technical services (new output): Servicing a seminar on the role of the Internet with regard to the provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

13. The estimated full cost of the above activities is itemized as follows:

A. Expert seminar

	(US$) 1997
Section 21 (Human rights)	
Travel and subsistence of 5 experts (for a period of 5 working days)	23 000
Total section 21	**23 000**
Section 26E (Conferences Services)	
Meeting services (10 meetings, 6 languages)	60 500
Pre-session documentation (100 pages, 6 languages)	97 800
Post-session documentation (32 pages, 6 languages)	32 900
Other requirements	3 300
Total section 26E	**194 500**

B. World conference

	2000/2001 Biennium (US$)
(Human rights)	
General temporary assistance (GTA)	
18 work/months at P-4 level	194 400
12 work/months at P-3 level	109 200
30 work/months at G-4 level	177,000
Total human rights	**480 600**

(Conferences Services, Geneva)

Preparatory Committee at Geneva	2000 (US$)	2001 (US$)
Meeting services for the plenary (10 meetings, 6 languages)	61 300	61 300
Pre-session documentation (10 documents, 200 pages, 6 languages)	215 100	215 100
In-session documentation (5 documents, 120 pages, 6 languages)	127 700	127 700
Post-session documentation (5 documents, 120 pages, 6 languages)	127 700	127 700
Other requirements	11 100	11 100
	542 900	**542 900**

Pre-conference consultation at Geneva	2001 (US$)
Meeting services (6 meetings, 6 languages)	36 300
Pre-session documentation (1 document, 32 pages, 6 languages)	33 100
In-session documentation (10 documents, 30 pages, 6 languages)	36 000
Post-session documentation (1 document, 32 pages, 6 languages)	29 600
Other requirements	1,900
	136 900
World conference	
Meeting services for the plenary (10 meetings, 6 languages)	63 000
Meetings services for main and drafting committees (16 meetings, 6 languages)	96 800
Pre-session documentation (30 documents, 600 pages, 6 languages)	645 200
In-session documentation (20 documents, 100 pages, 6 languages)	128 000
Post-session documentation (2 documents, 300 pages, 6 languages)	304 800
Other requirements	34 700
	1 272 500
Total Conference Services Division	**2 495 200**

F. Potential for absorption

14. The requirements of $ 23,000 relating to the convening of the expert seminar considered in paragraph 18 of draft resolution L.12 are expected to be absorbed from within existing provisions under section 21 (Human rights) of the 1996-1997 programme budget. Similarly, the estimated conference costs of $ 194,500 will be absorbed within existing provisions under section 26E (Conferences Services Division, UNOG) of the 1996-1997 programme budget.

15. The substantive costs associated with the convening of the world conference and its preparatory activities are estimated at US$ 480,600. The conference-servicing requirements are estimated at US$ 2,495,200.

16. The above requirements will be considered in the context of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001.